



Nativity Catholic Church
Faith Formation Department
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Brandon, FL 33511

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Office Hours
Monday-Thursday
8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
Friday 8:30-Noon

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Also offering Catechetical Leadership in service
to Nativity Catholic Church
Patrick Phelan
Director of Youth Ministry
689-4147

September 2020

Dear Parents,

Greetings and blessings to all of our parish families. We welcome you to the 2020-2021 program year of Faith Formation (Religious Education) at Nativity Parish. Our staff eagerly looks forward to serving our families on their journey of faith during the upcoming year.

Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, young people are often filled with questions, such as, "Who am I?" "What is my life's purpose?" "Who am I to others?" and "How can I contribute to society?" They long to encounter Christ, and they want to have someone walk with them in their questioning. They want a first-hand experience of God, and they want that experience to be connected to their everyday life. Accompaniment of young people on this journey calls for authenticity. Youth and young adults long to make connections with their peers and form lasting relationships. Deep pastoral listening is the starting point for accompanying young people in their journey of faith and discipleship. Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Christophe Pierre remarks that "we are called to listen." May we be moved this year to actively listen – in our homes, in the community and in our Parish.

"I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least openness to letting him encounter them..." Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, #3

Included in this handbook are the policies and procedures upon which our programs are based. It is important that parents and students are familiar with this information. Please take the time to review this book with your family members and then complete the acknowledgement forms located in the middle section of the booklet. These acknowledgement forms must be returned to our office by **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020**.

Our parish program could not exist without the dedication of volunteer catechists. We salute those persons in our parish who have committed to assisting you in the education of your children in the Catholic Faith. Many of them are parents while several others are simply brothers and sisters in God's family. These women and men have committed to take on the responsibility of further educating and forming themselves in Catholic Doctrine so that they may be true witnesses to the life of authentic Catholic living. We are most grateful to our Catechists for their response to the call of catechetical ministry.

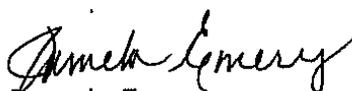
Please know that your involvement as a parent is essential to the faith formation of your children. Please take the time to look through your child's lesson and take home papers, ask about class work and activities. Attend Mass with your child. Remember, religious education programs are NEVER a substitute for Mass. Gathering

together to celebrate the Eucharist with other members of the parish community is one of the most important aspects of the Catholic faith and is an obligation of all Catholics. Dedicate yourself and your family to being present each Sunday at Mass and to pay close attention to the words, gestures, music, and rituals that are part of the Eucharistic celebration. And if you have not already done so, please make known to us any special learning needs that your child may have so that we may effectively serve him or her in the classroom. All information is confidential.

Please commit now to the active involvement of your family in the life of this great parish. Participate in Novemberfest and support of LaVictoria. Attend *Family Faith Events* held throughout the year as well as our yearly Parish Mission held during Lent. Make use of the opportunity to be reconciled with God and your community through parish celebrations of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent. Make 2020-2021 a year of active participation in **your** Catholic community.

We extend to all our families prayers for a year of growth in relationship to Christ. Please call upon us if there is anything we may do to serve you in your vocation as Catholic parents.

Peace in our risen Lord,



Pamela Emery
Director of Faith Formation-RE

Christina Beu

Christina Beu
Director of Faith Formation-RCIA

NATIVITY PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mission Statement

Upon saying his final farewell to His apostles, Jesus gave His new church the task to evangelize, that is, to bring the message of the Gospel to all the world (Acts 1:8). The Bishops of the United States have pointed out that the first goal of evangelization is to "bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others" (Go and Make Disciples). The family, then, is the first forum in which the mission of evangelization takes place. Hence, parents are recognized as having the primary responsibility for training their children in the practice of the faith (Gaudium et Spes #48).

Parish Faith Formation programs assist in this sacred duty by providing opportunities for parents and children to develop their prayer lives and their formal understanding of the faith.

The Gift of Faith which begins at Baptism must be nourished throughout the entire life of each Christian. The family is rightfully called the "domestic church" and, as such, is the foundation of the wider church community. Religious Education within the Diocese of St. Petersburg serves the domestic church by offering the guidance and instruction whereby each individual can come to his/her full potential as members of the people of God. Sincere cooperation between the Parish and its member families will bring about the goal of evangelizing youth and children; namely, that they grow in understanding and accepting Catholic Doctrine, in their active participation in and awareness of Catholic Liturgical and Sacramental Life, their embracing of the fundamental principles of Catholic Morality and the life of Catholic Prayer (Catechism of the Catholic Church).

Life Long Faith: Adult Education Opportunities

Here at Nativity we take religious education seriously—for our children, our adolescents, and our adults. Here are some of the Adult Education offerings planned for this year.

Family Faith Events

Family Faith Events are **intergenerational family sessions** that will help parents and children learn about our Catholic faith together. Parents will join students and their classes in the social hall for grade level events **during class-time**. Events are scheduled throughout the year. Families will be notified in advance of each event by the Classroom Catechists, as well as our Family Newsletter.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Each year, Nativity forms and educates adults and children and welcomes them into the Catholic faith. Perhaps an adult in your family is interested in joining the Catholic faith, or, completing their Sacraments. Call our office for more information.

Confirmation Preparation for Adults.

Adults who have not had the benefit of celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation may participate in preparation beginning in September. Call the Faith Formation office for details.

Catholic Scripture Study. Thursdays from 9:00—11 a.m. in the Adult Education bldg. This popular program includes small-group discussion, lectures, and fellowship.

Evening Scripture Study. Most Thursdays of the year at 7 p.m. in the Adult Education bldg. This group discusses selected books and themes of the Bible using materials prepared by reliable Catholic sources. Studies in Spanish are also offered at the same time in Social Hall D, St. Francis room.

Young Adults. Meet every Thursday at 7:30 pm in various locations. Contact Youth Ministry at 689-4147 for more information.

Catholics Come Home. Have you been away from the practice of the Catholic Faith? Do you want to connect with the Catholic Church? Do you feel the call to come home? You don't have to feel out of place—there is a place for you here at Nativity. Come and See . . .If you have questions, please call Christina Beu at 689.9101

Parish Mission

For more information on Adult Education offerings, call the Office of Faith Formation at 689-9101. Watch the Parish Bulletin for announcements and regularly check the parish website: www.NativityCatholicChurch.org

CURRICULUM FOR YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Nativity Parish Religious Education uses *Alive in Christ*, developed by Our Sunday Visitor and Lectionary Driven Catechesis through Liturgy Training Publications. We feel these are excellent sources from which to instruct our students in the faith of the Catholic Church. *Each* year, the student is presented concepts of doctrine, church history, scripture, sacramental life, prayer, morality, social justice and liturgical year in an age appropriate manner. We invite you to take the time to browse the corresponding web site developed for the textbooks at www.osv.com

Those familiar with education theory know that the fullness of understanding in a subject can only be attained with on-going effort. While major subject matters are covered each year, the entire body of Catholic doctrine is not conveyed in any single year. Each year of religious education builds upon those that preceded and lead to growth in the years that follow. It is our hope and expectation that students, once registered in our education program will continue to participate each year. The seeds of life-long, adult learning and faith formation take root when you ensure the on-going faith education of your children.

The Scope and Sequence of the Our Sunday Visitor (OSV) and *Alive in Christ* program is in compliance with the curriculum guidelines established by the Diocese of St. Petersburg. These diocesan guidelines provide each parish with established goals and objectives for the religious education of our students. Any parent interested in reviewing these guidelines may call our office to read and discuss them with the Directors of Faith Formation.

Special Education students are instructed using the *Finding God Program*, by Loyola Press. For the parish based immediate sacrament preparation for Penance and Eucharist, Nativity uses age appropriate sacrament preparation materials.

Confirmation preparation for youth and adults conforms to the guidelines established by the Diocese of Saint Petersburg. To receive a detailed overview of these programs, contact our Faith Formation office.

Catechesis in Spanish is based on the Un Llamado a la FE by OSV and Fe Catolica by Loyola Press.

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION /FORMATION
PROGRAM POLICIES—Part I

Admission

- 1) Families who wish to enroll children in Nativity Parish Faith Formation classes must be registered parishioners.
- 2) Students must be at least 5 years old by September 1st of the year in which the student is enrolling.
- 3) Copies of Baptismal Certificates (if sacrament received at another parish) **must be provided at the time of program registration.**
- 4) If sacraments have been received at Nativity, please let us know the dates.
- 5) Copies of child custody arrangements and/or birth certificates may be requested at the time of registration.
- 6) Fees for the 2020-2021 program year are as follows:
 - \$80.00/first student and \$50.00 for each additional student for Faith Formation.
 - Reconciliation and Communion preparation tuition is \$50.00/ student.
 - Confirmation Preparation registration is \$60.00/student.
 - Adult Confirmation registration is \$60.00/person.

Attendance

- 1) Faithful attendance at all scheduled meeting times is expected. Sacrament preparation requires regular attendance in Religious Education classes as well as parent/student attendance in the parish-based preparation process.
- 2) Families are expected to attend Mass regularly.
- 3) Students are expected to make up any missed work due to absences.
- 4) Tardiness is a distraction to both students and catechists and robs students of valuable instruction time. **Any student who is more than 10 minutes tardy for class will be considered absent.**
- 5) **All absences require either a written excuse, phone call to the Faith Formation Office at 689-9101 ext. 2296; or email: Pam@nativitycatholicchurch.org**
- 6) Absences can be considered excused only if oral or written communication is provided.
- 7) If a student has three consecutive unexcused absences, our Faith Formation office will be in touch with the parent/guardian.

PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/FORMATION
PROGRAM POLICIES—Part II

Student Participation

It is our expectation that:

- 1) Students will actively participate in classroom activities and discussions.
- 2) Students will attend class regularly and complete assignments and homework.
- 3) Students will not participate in the use of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs or bring any type of weapon with them to the campus.
- 4) **Students will dress modestly and appropriately.**
Girls' shorts must reach mid thigh; no tank tops will be allowed,
no tee-shirts with inappropriate language or messages.
Boys' shorts/pants waistband must rest no lower than their waist; no tank tops or tee-shirts with inappropriate language or messages will be allowed.
- 5) Students are asked not to bring toys, backpacks, jewelry, portable audio equipment or **cell phones** to class. **Nativity assumes no responsibility or liability for items brought to class.** Cell phones (see above) must remain in off or silent mode during class and may be used only in an emergency and **with the instructor's permission. This includes TEXT MESSAGING.**

Student Behavior

- 1) Students are expected to model their behavior after Jesus Christ who instituted two Great Commandments: "You shall love the Lord Your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 11:27)
- 2) Students may enter classrooms only if the volunteer Catechist is in the assigned classroom. Elementary grade students must never be left by parents unattended at the classroom.
- 3) The following are principles/ guidelines for student behavior while participating in programs sponsored by Nativity Religious Education:
 - a) Students will give proper respect and obedience to adults in authority.
 - b) Students will give proper respect to the personal space and personal property of others.
 - c) Behavior or language that intimidates, belittles, harasses (including harassment of a sexual nature), makes inappropriate references or physically harms oneself or others will result in disciplinary action.
- 4) In the event a student engages in inappropriate behavior any or all of the following may occur:
 - a) Parental notification of infraction.
 - b) Meeting between parents and Catechist and Director of Faith Formation.
 - c) Parent attendance required at subsequent program classes.
 - d) Temporary removal of student from Religious Education program.
 - e) Permanent removal of student from Religious Education program
- 5) The Directors of Faith Formation are responsible for ensuring that all sanctions against students are implemented in a fair and consistent manner.
- 6) In the event that a parent/guardian is not satisfied with action taken by a Catechist, they may contact the Directors of Faith Formation.
- 7) If the parent/guardian is unsatisfied with the action of the Director of Faith Formation, the matter may be taken to the Pastor for resolution.
- 8) Other Policies:

- a) The Office of Faith Formation keeps records of a confidential nature: attendance, discipline, last grade completed, address, phone number, date of birth, place of birth, sacraments received, marital status of parents, disabilities, emergency contact information.
- b) The Office of Faith Formation abides by the Privacy Act and will not disclose personal information to third parties without written permission from the persons involved. Parents and/or guardians have a right to review any records pertaining to their child for any reason.
- c) Catechists are provided limited access to personal information as is necessary for them to perform their job. Such information would include: last grade completed, disciplinary records, address, phone number, emergency contacts, health conditions, disability, other family information when it is appropriate.
- d) The Office of Faith Formation abides by the provisions of the Buckley Amendment with respect to the rights of non-custodial parents. In the absence of a court order to the contrary, we will provide the non-custodial parent with unofficial copies of records when such records are requested. If there is a court order specifying that there is to be no information given, it is the responsibility of the parent to provide the Directors of Faith Formation with an official copy of the court order.

Communication

- 1) The Office of Faith Formation, along with the Church Universal, strives to maintain open communication with all who participate in our programs. We also encourage catechists and parents to keep each other informed of student progress through informal contact at the beginning and end of each class time.
- 2) From time to time it may be necessary for parents to discuss issues of concern with the Catechists or the Directors of Faith Formation. In keeping with Church teaching and the Biblical tradition of subsidiarity, issues of concern should be resolved at the lowest possible level. Parents/guardians should attempt to resolve any issues with a Catechist by first contacting the Catechist and discussing the issue.
- 3) If satisfactory progress is not made, then the parents/guardians may contact the Directors of Faith Formation to discuss the issue and request that action be taken. If the parent is not satisfied with the actions of the Directors of Faith Formation, then the matter should be taken to the Pastor for resolution.

Use of Parish Grounds and Facilities

- 1) The facilities and grounds of our parish are used by numerous ministries and organizations. It is essential that all who participate in Religious Education exercise the greatest amount of respect for the facilities that we share, so that all may have maximum use and enjoyment of the gifts God has bestowed. Therefore, the following guidelines are given:
 - a) Classes are held Wednesdays from 6:30pm - 7:45pm and Sundays from 8:30am-10:00am in English as well as 10:30-12:00noon on Sunday in Spanish as specified in the schedule. Drop off of children is expected 5 minutes before classes begin. Pick up of students should take place promptly at dismissal time.
 - b) Students are **not** allowed to enter the classroom unless a Catechist or appropriate supervisor is present.
 - c) Students who arrive early are to wait in the Courtyard of the school or the office of Faith Formation until class time.
 - d) **Children 5th grade and under must be escorted to and from the classroom by an**

- older sibling, parent or adult designated by the parent.**
- e) **Students who are not picked up promptly will be escorted to and supervised in the Faith Formation Office.**
 - f) Students who engage in vandalism of parish property will be required to make restitution for damaged property and may have their attendance privileges suspended or revoked.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR ALL YOUTH AT NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Baptism

Baptism gives membership to the Body of Christ and incorporates one into the church, sharing in its mission.

0-6 years, contact the Faith Formation Office at 689-9101 to receive information regarding infant Baptism.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults/Adapted for Children

The process of preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, that is, full initiation into the Catholic church

Contact the Directors of Faith Formation at 689-9101 for more information regarding RCIA adapted for children.

Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession

This sacrament is an expression of the power of Christ to reconcile us to God and His church which we have wounded by our sins. By our confession and sorrow for sin, God offers forgiveness. We then are reconciled and renewed to live as God calls us to live.

*See **Registration Policies** under Eucharist

Communion (Eucharist)

The Baptized children of God come together to celebrate God's word and saving action in our lives. The Risen Lord comes into our midst, we join in union with the community to be nourished by his glorified body. Then we are sent out into the world to carry on Christ's saving work of reconciliation and peace.

Sacrament Preparation for baptized children and youth of Nativity Parish consists of a minimum of one year religious education, followed by a second year of religious education, plus immediate preparation for reception of the sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation. Placement in all Sacrament Preparation programs is based on the following criteria in accordance with diocesan guidelines. Liturgies for the reception of these sacraments are held in Nativity Catholic Church.

Registration Policies for First Reconciliation/First Communion

- 1) Families of students in the second grade or older who have not received First Reconciliation/First Communion may be eligible to enroll for Sacrament Preparation.
- 2) Families of candidates must be registered in Nativity Parish.
- 3) **Proof of Baptism must be provided at the time of enrollment in First Communion preparation classes.**
- 4) Student must have completed one year of faithful participation in Catholic Religious Education classes, Catholic Parochial school, or a formal home school program immediately prior to enrollment.
- 5) Student must be at least seven years old by September 1st in the year of enrollment.
- 6) a. Primary grade baptized students of the Parish Religious Education program who were not enrolled in religious education the prior year, will be placed in a combined first and second grade class for a year of remote sacrament preparation. The next year, Year 2, students will be placed in a combined second and third grade class.
b. Baptized students who are third graders and all older students without previous religious instruction will be placed in a Religious Education class at their current grade level for Year 1 sacrament preparation. The next year, Year 2 students will be placed in age appropriate grouping for classroom education.
- 7) Immediate preparation for Reconciliation and Communion takes place in the context of a **separate and distinct parish program of parent and child sessions**. Enrollment in the process takes place through the Office of Faith Formation.
- 8) Students of Nativity Catholic School seeking sacrament preparation for Reconciliation and Communion should contact the office of Faith Formation for information. Students will need proof of one year remote (prior) religious education to be eligible for enrollment in sacrament preparation.

Confirmation

“Reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. By the sacrament of confirmation (the baptized) are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit.”

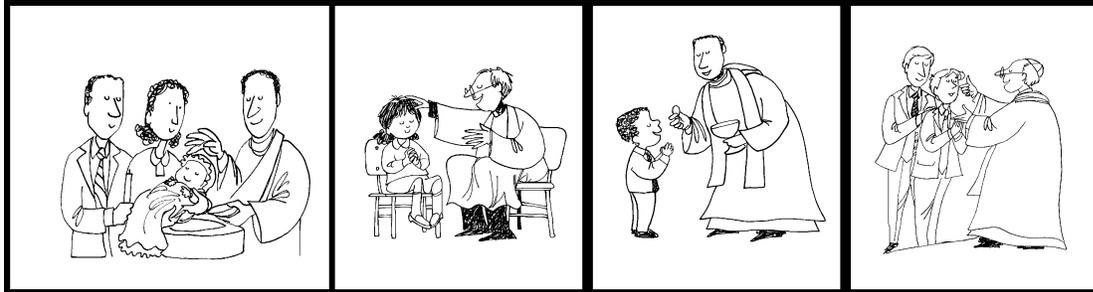
Catechism of the Catholic Church #1285 **Registration Policies for**

Confirmation

Students in 9th grade or older are eligible to enroll in Confirmation Preparation

- 1) Families of Confirmation candidates must be registered in the parish of Nativity.
- 2) Proof of Baptism and First Communion must be provided at the ¹¹ time of enrollment in Confirmation Preparation classes.
- 3) Student must have completed one year of faithful participation in Parish Religious-

- Education or Catholic Parochial School **immediately prior** to enrollment.
- 4) Student must be at least 14 years of age, or in Grade 9 by September 1st in the year of enrollment.
 - 5) Based on the enrollment of 8th grade students in Parish Religious Education and Nativity Catholic School, registration forms will be sent to eligible youth.
 - 6) Confirmation preparation for adults is also available. Call the Faith Formation office for registration information.



Hurricane Plan for Program Cancellation

Should a tropical storm or hurricane be forecast to hit our area, it may be necessary for Parish Religious Education classes to be canceled. The decision to cancel classes will be based on the Hillsborough County School system's decision to cancel public school classes. City Emergency Management officials have advised us that the decision to close our program should be tied to a public agency, such as Hillsborough County Schools. Because the county can more efficiently inform the public of program cancellations due to inclement weather, we will cancel Religious Education classes when public schools in Hillsborough County close for a tropical storm or hurricane. If you wish to confirm the decision to cancel classes, you may call our office at 689-9101 and a recording will indicate the closure of classes. Because the decision to cancel classes may be made several days prior to classes (i.e., Sunday program closure), it is important to remember that the decision to close will stand firm, regardless of how beautiful the weather may be on Sunday. It is better to be cautious and incorrect than to be indecisive and create confusion.

Check the parish website for changes to the Faith Formation Calendar including storm updates.



Faith Formation Office Holidays

On the following days the Faith Formation Office will be closed.

November 24-27, 2020	Thanksgiving
December 22-Jan 3, 2021	Christmas-New Year Holiday
January 18, 2021	Martin Luther King Holiday
February 15, 2021	President's Day
April 5, 2021	Easter Monday
May 31, 2021	Memorial Day

Right to Amend

The Directors of Faith Formation reserve the right to amend these guidelines at any time for any appropriate reason. Prompt notification of any changes made to this Handbook or any guidelines will be made in writing to all who are registered in Parish Religious Education.

Policy for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (Revised and Approved February 2018)

INTRODUCTION

The Diocese of St. Petersburg is committed to the well-being of those served by the Church. The People of God have a right to be able to trust those who minister to them in God's name. The violation of this trust through Sexual Abuse by any Church Personnel is a source of great physical, mental and emotional pain for those involved and for the entire Church community. The Diocese published its first policy for the protection of Children and Youth on June 10, 1991, which required both Employees and Volunteers who work with Children and Youth in any parish or Catholic School program to complete written employment or Covered Volunteer applications respectively for service with accompanying references. Beginning April 15, 1992, the diocese required background screening and fingerprinting of all Employees who have the care, responsibility, and/or supervision of Children and Youth.

In July 1997, the Province of Miami required all dioceses to add Vulnerable Adults to the protected classes of Children and Young People. Background screening, reference checking, fingerprinting, and written employment and Covered Volunteer applications were now required of those desiring to work or volunteer with Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults. In November of 2001, contractors and vendors were added to the list of those requiring background screening. In June 2002, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) adopted the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (Charter), which required background screening and Safe Environment Program training for all who may have the care, responsibility, and/or supervision of Children and young people. The USCCB obtained confirmation by the Holy See for the Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by priests or deacons in November 2002. The Diocese of St. Petersburg revised its policy to comply with the Charter and the Essential Norms in December 2002 and again in May 2006 in response to the first revision of the Charter in 2005. The diocese publishes this revision as a response to the second revision of the Charter in 2011 and of its current policy as part of a continuing commitment to its pastoral responsibilities and to the gospel. This revised policy in combination with procedures and guidelines provides for the implementation and enforcement of a safe environment for our Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults.

POLICY AND SCOPE

Policy to Protect. The Bishop of the Diocese of St. Petersburg will make every reasonable effort to prevent Sexual Abuse of Minors and Vulnerable Adults, and to respond promptly to all credible Allegations of abuse. As such, the Diocese of St. Petersburg will comply with all obligations of civil and canon law and will promote-

healing where it is needed, provide education, training and guidance when it is appropriate, and endeavor to prevent any Sexual Abuse of Minors and Vulnerable Adults with firm justice and mercy towards all. No person, including Clergy, who has been determined to have engaged in Sexual Abuse of a Minor or Vulnerable Adult, will be allowed to remain in active ministry. Such actions violate Christian principles and are outside the scope of duties and employment of all Church Personnel. The diocese will not tolerate such behavior. This policy applies to all diocesan entities and their

Contractors and Vendors to include parishes, schools, early childhood centers, and associated activities within the diocese. Care will always be taken to protect the rights of all parties involved, particularly those of the person claiming to have been sexually abused and the person against whom the charge has been made. When the accusation has been proved to be unfounded, every reasonable step will be taken to restore the good name of the person falsely accused.

Policy to Respond to Allegations. The Diocese of St. Petersburg will respond promptly to any Allegation where there is reason to believe that Sexual Abuse of a Minor has occurred. The diocese will utilize an objective outside investigator to investigate any such Allegations. The diocese will maintain a Victim Assistance Minister to coordinate assistance for the immediate pastoral care of persons who report Sexual Abuse incidents that occurred when they were Minors by Clergy or other Church Personnel. The procedures for those making a complaint are readily available on the Internet via the Diocese of St. Petersburg website at <https://www.dosp.org/safe-environment/how-to-file-an-abuse-complaint/>

Toll Free Contact Number for the Diocesan Victim Assistance Minister: 1-866-407-4505

Policy to Report. The Diocese of St. Petersburg will report an Allegation of Sexual Abuse of a person who is a Minor or Vulnerable Adult to the appropriate civil authorities. The diocese will comply with all applicable civil laws with respect to the reporting of Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors and Vulnerable Adults and will cooperate in the civil authorities' investigation in accord with Florida state law[i]. The diocese will cooperate with civil authorities about reporting cases even when the alleged victim is no longer a Minor. In every instance, the diocese will advise those who allege abuse of their right to make a report to civil authorities and support this right.

Call in all reports of actual or suspected abuse to the local law enforcement agency (911) or to the state Department of Children and Families (DCF) Abuse Hotline Registry: 1-800-96ABUSE (1-800-962-2873).

Any person who knows or suspects child abuse, abandonment, or neglect and who knowingly and willfully fails to do so, or who knowingly and willfully prevents another person from doing so, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable by one year in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

Policy on the Diocesan Review Board. The Diocese of St. Petersburg Diocesan Review Board functions as a confidential consultative body to the bishop. The ma-

majority of its members will be lay persons not in the employ of the diocese in accordance with Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons, 2006. This board will assist the Diocesan Bishop in assessing Allegations and fitness for ministry, and will regularly review Diocesan Policies and Procedures for dealing with Sexual Abuse of Minors and Vulnerable Adults. Also, the Board can act both retrospectively and prospectively on these matters and give advice on all aspects of responses required in connection with these cases.

Policy on Removal of a Priest or Deacon from Ministry. Sexual Abuse of a Minor by a cleric is a crime in the universal law of the Church (CIC, c. 1395 §2; CCEO, c. 1453 §1). Those who habitually lack the use of reason, regardless of age, are to be equated with Minors (CIC, c.99). The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (Motu proprio, *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*, 2001, revised 2010) has reserved this jurisdiction because of the seriousness of this matter. Even after a single act of Sexual Abuse of a Minor— whenever it occurred—which is admitted or established after an appropriate process in accord with canon law and the Essential Norms, the offending priest or deacon is to be permanently removed from ministry and, if warranted, dismissed from the clerical state. If an Allegation of Sexual Abuse of a Minor is made against the bishop, the Apostolic Nuncio shall be notified and the investigation shall proceed according to his direction. The Diocese of St. Petersburg will follow the requirements of the universal law of the Church and the Essential Norms approved by the USCCB, along with all state and federal laws concerning the protection of Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adults.

Policy on the Standards of Ministerial Behavior. The Diocese of St. Petersburg will maintain standards of ministerial behavior and appropriate boundaries for Clergy and for any other paid personnel and Volunteers of the church in positions of trust who have the care, responsibility, and or supervision of Children, Youth or Vulnerable Adults. This policy can be viewed on the diocesan website at <https://www.dosp.org/safe-environment/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/Practical-Standards-of-Professional-Responsibility-for-Priests-.pdf>

Policy on Communications. The Diocese of St. Petersburg will be open and transparent in communicating with parish, other church communities, and the public about Sexual Abuse of Minors and Vulnerable Adults within the confines of respect for the privacy and the reputation of the individuals involved.

Policy on Distribution. A copy of this policy will be distributed to all diocesan entities in printed form for posting to the general public. This policy will also be posted on the diocesan website at

<https://www.dosp.org/safe-environment/policy-for-the-protection-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults/>

Policy on Background Screening. The Diocese of St. Petersburg require that all Church Personnel, candidates for ordination, Contractors, and Vendors who may have the care, responsibility, and or supervision of Children undergo a Level 2 FDLE/FBI Criminal History Background Screening, currently using the Volunteer, Employee

Criminal History System (VECHS) and must meet the Diocese of St. Petersburg Minimum Standards of Moral Conduct. Employees must also receive a Level 2 background check as a condition of employment. The Safe Environment Program Office is responsible for administering the background screening function for the diocese.

The FBI requires that background checks only be used for the purpose intended.

Therefore, the diocese does not accept FBI background checks or background checks run by other entities for other purposes. The diocese does not accept proof of Level 2 background checks or letters from other entities certifying a Level 2 background check.

All Church Personnel, candidates for ordination, Contractors and Vendors who may have the care, responsibility, and or supervision of Children will be required to undergo a Criminal History Background Screening conducted by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the FBI Volunteer & Employee Criminal History System (VECHS) every five years.

Church Personnel who move from one entity to another within the Diocese of St. Petersburg with no break in service must submit a personal request in writing to the Safe Environment Program Office asking that proof of his or her background check be transferred from the losing entity to the gaining entity or entities. If there is a break in service, a re-screening must take place.

Background Screening Reports and Clearance Letters for employees and covered volunteers will be secured in locked containers at the respective parishes, schools, or other diocesan entities. Only the parish pastor, the school principal, diocesan entity head or their specifically-authorized delegates will have access to these records.

Copies of Contractor Criminal History Records and Background Screening Reports will be kept on file and secured at the Diocesan Safe Environment Program Office. Contractor/vendor employers will only receive clearance or non-clearance letters for their employees.

Policy on the Diocesan Safe Environment Program (SEP) Training. Under Article 12 of the Charter, the Safe Environment Program Office is responsible for the administration of Safe Environment Program Training. The Diocese of St. Petersburg will require SEP training of all Church Personnel, Contractors, Vendors, and candidates for ordination who may have the care, responsibility, and or supervision of Children, Youth or Vulnerable Adults. These individuals must complete the required SEP training, which is offered online. This training expires five years from the initial date of training and also qualifies the recipient for employment or volunteer ministries which involve the care, responsibility, or supervision of Vulnerable Adults. SEP training re-certification is required every 5 years thereafter.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Sick and Homebound and Pastoral Care Providers who wish to have the care, responsibility, and or supervision of Vulnerable Adults must complete the online Safe Environment Program, in addition to the training required for those who exercise this ministry. This training expires 5 years from the initial date of training and also qualifies the recipient for employment or volunteer ministries which involve the care, responsibility, or su-

pervision of Children. SEP re-certification is required every 5 years thereafter.

The diocese does not accept safe environment program training from other archdioceses, dioceses or eparchies because state laws, policies, procedures, and program jargon differ. Individuals coming into the Diocese of St. Petersburg must complete the online Safe Environment Program training.

The Safe Environment Program Office will oversee training and education in cooperation with parents, civil authorities, educators, and community organizations. It will require education and training for Children, Youth, parents, ministers, educators, Volunteers, Contractors and Vendors to make and maintain a safe environment for Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adults.

The Diocesan Safe Environment Program Office is also responsible for maintaining a central database that will track the training and background screening status on all program participants. Appropriate staff members of parishes, schools and other diocesan entities are to inform those persons requiring 5-year recertification training prior to the expiration of their 5-year certification period.

Clergy and religious who will be engaging in ministry within the Diocese of St. Petersburg for a period of 30 days or less, including those charged with the care, responsibility and supervision of Children, Youth or Vulnerable Adults, must comply with this Policy, unless a statement of suitability from the individual's diocese or religious institute, with verification of his/her completion of that diocese's or institute's Safe Environment Program training and background screening with no criminal history is submitted to the Diocese of St. Petersburg prior to engagement in ministry.

Lay presenters who will be engaging in ministry for 30 days or less by providing seminars, workshops or retreats in the Diocese of St. Petersburg and will be charged with the care, responsibility or supervision of Children, Youth or Vulnerable Adults, must comply with the requirements of this Policy, unless a statement of suitability from their diocese with verification of his/her completion of that diocese's Safe Environment Program training and background screening with no criminal history is submitted to the Diocese of St. Petersburg prior to engagement in ministry; or the lay presenter submits to the Diocese prior to engagement in ministry a copy of a Criminal History Background Screening acceptable to the Diocese, showing no criminal history and is current within 5 years.

Personnel or contractors who perform services under Title I or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and who are employed or contracted by the public school district to perform those services for parentally-placed private school students are vetted and screened in compliance with § 1012.465 and 1012.467, Florida Statutes, the "Jessica Lunsford Act" (JLA), which requires Level II fingerprint and screening by the public district. This screening consists of a Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)/Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) search. All such individuals are required to have the statewide JLA badge and appropriate, visible identification while present at any Catholic school to which they are assigned. The Diocese of St. Petersburg will accept a written statement from the public school district verifying that any and all personnel employed by or contracted through the public school district to perform these educational services have successfully completed this screening.

Definitions

Adult: An individual who is 18 years or older and who is no longer in high school.

Allegation: A statement or accusation of abuse, especially Sexual Abuse

Care, Responsibility and or Supervision: Unsupervised access by members of the Clergy and/or Religious Institutes, Seminarians, Lay Persons, Employees, Covered Volunteers, Vendors

or Contractors to any Child or Vulnerable Adult participating in any ministry or activity of the Diocese or any parish, school or other diocesan entity. This includes clergy, members of religious institutes, seminarians and lay persons.

Child, Youth, or Minor: A person less than eighteen (18) years of age unless emancipated by law. Minors and the combined term “Children and Youth” are used interchangeably.

Church Personnel shall mean all of the following:

Clergy: All priests and deacons who possess or desire faculties for ministry in the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

Contractors and Vendors: This class of persons shall be understood for purposes of this policy and in accordance with the VECHS User Agreement to include Contractors, Vendors, Licensees, Consultants, and Memo of Understanding (MOU) personnel who have unsupervised access to Children, disabled or elderly persons for whom the diocese provides care, responsibility and/or supervision.

Covered Volunteer: Any unpaid person who is engaged or involved in any diocesan institution or parish activity, and who is entrusted with the care, responsibility, or supervision of Children or Vulnerable Adults. Covered Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older and are not in high school. Individuals younger than 18 years old are not permitted to assume the primary care, responsibility and/or supervision of Children, Youth or Vulnerable Adults, although they may be permitted to assist an adult who meets the criteria to do so.

Criminal History Background Screening: An investigation of an individual’s background that may be contained in the public record to include municipal, county, state, federal law enforcement, Social Security and state driving records. The Diocese currently conducts its screening through VECHS but reserves the right to use other third-party professionals.

Employee: Any lay individual who is employed by or engaged in ministry with the Diocese, Parish, School or other entity affiliated with the Diocese of St. Petersburg, who receives compensation for services (regardless of form) rendered in which the obligation to withhold for payroll tax (FICA, Medicare, and withholding) exists, whether part-time or full-time. All Employees, even those under 18 years of age (14 – 17 years of age) are subject to background screening as a condition of employment. Parental consent is not required in the state of Florida to sign the FDLE VECHS Waiver/Agreement. “Personnel” as defined herein, has reference only to the applicability of this policy and is not indicative of any agency or employment relationship between the diocese and the party whose compliance with this policy is sought.

Pastoral Care Providers: Volunteers who are entrusted with the care, responsibility and supervision of any Child or Vulnerable Adult, who provide various types of service and assistance to the sick and shut-in as a form of ministry. Types of ministry-in-service may include but are not limited to Vehicle Drivers, Errand Runners, Bereavement Ministers, Care Givers, Pastoral Ministers, Health Ministers, Helping with Chores, etc.

Qualified Entity: The Diocese of St. Petersburg is a Qualified Entity within the FDLE Employee, Volunteer Criminal History System (VECHS).

Sexual Abuse: Any act as defined by Chapter 39 and Chapter 415 of the Florida Statutes.

Vulnerable Adult: A person as defined by Chapter 39 of the Florida Statutes.

End notes:

[1] The statutory confidentiality of privileged communications established in Section 90.505, F.S., shall be observed when applicable to all reporting required under this paragraph. Section 90.505, F.S. establishes a privilege with respect to communications to Clergy, if made privately for the purposes of seeking spiritual counsel and advice from a member of the Clergy in the usual course of practice or discipline and not intended for further disclosure.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Diocesan Victim Assistance Minister (toll-free): (866) 407-4505

Diocesan Safe Environment Program Office: (727) 344-1611, ext. 5377

Florida Department of Children & Families Abuse Hotline Registry (toll free): (800) 962-2873

Local Law Enforcement Agency: 911

- 1) Physical, mental or verbal abuse
- 2) Insults, jokes, or derogatory slurs based on one or more of an individual's protected status(es)
- 3) Unwelcome sexual advances or touching
- 4) Implicit or explicit requests for sexual favors
- 5) Unwanted sexual comments (serious or humorous)
- 6) Unwanted sexually suggestive telephone calls, letters, e-mail, etc.
- 7) Comments or jokes based on issues of modesty and developing social awareness
- 8) Unwanted forced involvement in activities (e.g., physical, religious, etc.)
- 9) Coercion of religious styles or personal beliefs upon a participant
- 10) Intimidation in front of a group or forced personal sharing in groups
- 11) Inappropriate media or music use which would violate this policy

Confidentiality

The right of confidentiality, both of the complainant and of the accused, will be respected to the extent possible, but will be consistent with legal obligations and with the necessity to investigate allegations of misconduct and to take corrective action when this conduct has occurred.

Reporting Procedures

When an individual believes (s)he is being harassed or feels uncomfortable with the actions or comments of another, or observes harassment of another person, a report of the situation should be immediately given to the Co-Directors of Faith Formation, Pamela Emery and Christina Beu. Should circumstances warrant, reports of harassment may be given to our Pastor, Fr. John Tapp or the Diocesan Director of Evangelization and Life Long Faith Formation.

SUMMARY OF DIOCESAN POLICY **FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS**

The Diocese of St. Petersburg remains committed to the well-being of those who are served by the Church, especially children and the vulnerable and marginalized.

Background screening - all parishes and schools are required to comply with existing background screening for fingerprinting new hires and re-screening existing employees through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). The policy of screening volunteers was expanded in 2000 and requires all volunteers who are entrusted with the care or supervision of children and vulnerable adults to be screened through FDLE.

Obligation to report abuse - the diocese remains committed in its policies requiring all Church Personnel who know, or have reasonable cause to suspect, that a child or vulnera-

ble adult has been a victim of sexual abuse, shall immediately make any report required by law to the Department of Children and Families. The toll-free number to report to DCF is 1-800-96-ABUSE.

Pastoral commitment - the diocese remains committed to its policy that whenever any Church Personnel is determined to have committed a single act of sexual abuse involving a minor - past or present - the offending person will be permanently removed from ministry or employment.

2002 changes to policy - the Diocese of St. Petersburg has further strengthened its existing policies for the protection of children and vulnerable adults. Diocesan procedures are strengthened in the following areas:

1 Victim Assistance Minister - the diocese has designated Marti Zeitz as a competent assistance minister to coordinate and aid in the immediate pastoral care of persons whose claims of being sexually abuse by Church Personnel when they were minors are true, or seem to be true.

2 Dedicated telephone number - the diocese has established a toll free dedicated telephone number **(1-866-407-4505)**, for anyone to initiate a report of abuse involving a minor by anyone serving within the Diocese of St. Petersburg, whether an employee, clergy, religious, or volunteer.

3 Review Board - the Review Board, formerly known as the diocesan Response Team, has been restructured and its role will be to assist the Bishop in the following areas:

- a. The assessment of the investigation concerning the allegations of sexual abuse of minors or vulnerable adults by Church Personnel.
- b. Receive results of the investigation and recommend a finding to the Bishop on whether the allegation is credible and substantial; whether it is unfounded; or whether the results of the investigation do not substantiate the allegations.
- c. Making recommendations concerning fitness for ministry.
- d. Review diocesan policies for dealing with abuse allegations.
- e. Oversee the publication and distribution of the policies and the implementation, making suggested recommendations to the Bishop as necessary.

4. Diocesan investigations - when an allegation at least seems to be true, the diocesan Bishop shall initiate a preliminary investigation. When the preliminary investigation so indicates, the Bishop will temporarily relieve the alleged offender from ministry and initiate a thorough fact-finding investigation which shall not interfere with any investigation by law enforcement.

5. Outside investigators - the Bishop shall use outside investigators for a preliminary investigation and/or a fact-finding investigation to assist him in a determination of whether the accused has committed the acts alleged. The investigators shall have professional competence and qualifications to conduct a thorough investigation and report the results to the Review Board.

The complete text of the Policy of the Diocese of St. Petersburg for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults can be read on the diocesan website: www.dioceseofstpete.org

SUNDAY

2020-2021

SEPTEMBER

16 WED-Faith Formation office open for registrations

6:30-7:45 pm

27 **CLASSES BEGIN** with an Opening Mass in Youth Center GYM followed by OPEN HOUSE in classrooms.

PARENTS ATTENDANCE REQUIRED.

OCTOBER

4
11
18
25

NOVEMBER

1
8
15
22
29 NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

DECEMBER

2 **Wednesday-Awesome Advent-students attend with parents**
6
13
14 Monday-Parish Penance Service-Church 7:00 PM
20 NO CLASS – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
27 NO CLASS – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

JANUARY 2021

3 NO CLASS – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
10
17 NO CLASS – MLK HOLIDAY
24
31 NO CLASS – Catechist Planning Day

FEBRUARY

7
14 NO CLASS – PRESIDENTS DAY
17 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE in the GYM 6:30 PM
STUDENTS TO ATTEND WITH PARENTS
21
28

MARCH

7
14 NO CLASS Spring Break
15 Monday-Parish Penance Service-Church 7 PM
21 NO CLASS Spring Break
28

APRIL

4 NO CLASS – EASTER
11
18
25

MAY

2
5 FAITH FORMATION CLOSING FOR ALL
6:00 P.M. dinner in the Social Hall
6:45 P.M. Closing service in the Church

WEATHER RELATED CLOSINGS

WHENEVER HILLSBOROUGH CO. SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER, NATIVITY FF WILL ALSO BE CLOSED. YOU MAY CALL 689-9101 FOR A RECORDED MESSAGE, OR CHECK THE FAITH FORMATION WEBPAGE.

ABSENTEEISM

Of course, it is our fervent hope that students are always present (and on time for) their assigned classes. However, if they are ill, please call the Faith Formation office at 689-9101 to have students excused or E-mail:

Pam@nativitycatholicchurch.org. This will also help to keep our attendance records current for perfect attendance awards!

Please refer to the Parent/student handbook as well as the Parish Bulletin and website for special events, Holy Days of Obligation, and additional information.

WEDNESDAY

2020-2021

SEPTEMBER

- 16 NO CLASS-FF office open for registration
27 **CLASSES BEGIN SUNDAY** with an Opening Mass in the Gym @ 8:30 a.m. **PARENTS ATTENDANCE REQUIRED**
30 FIRST CLASS

OCTOBER

- 7
14
24
28

NOVEMBER

- 4
11
18
25 NO CLASS-THANKSGIVING

DECEMBER

- 2 AWESOME ADVENT-PARENTS ATTEND WITH STUDENTS**
9
14 Monday-Parish Penance Service-Church 7:00 PM
16
23 NO CLASS – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
30 NO CLASS – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

JANUARY 2021

- 6
13
20
27 NO CLASS – CATECHISTS' PLANNING DAY

FEBRUARY

- 3
10
17 **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE** in the GYM 6:30 PM
STUDENTS TO ATTEND WITH PARENTS
24

MARCH

- 3
10
15 Monday-Parish Penance Service-Church 7:00 PM
17 NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK
24
31

APRIL

- 7
14
21
28

MAY

- 5 **REL. ED. CLOSING –FAMILY EVENT** 6:00 p.m. Dinner FOLLOWED BY PRAYER AND AWARDS IN CHURCH; CATECHISTS, PARENTS, STUDENTS AND SUPPORT STAFF ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND.

NOTE: ATTENDANCE WILL BE TAKEN AT ALL FAITH FORMATION EVENTS, INCLUDING PENITENTIAL SERVICES.

****Penitential services for all students who have received 1st Reconciliation**

WEATHER RELATED CLOSINGS

WHENEVER HILLSBOROUGH CO. SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER, NATIVITY WILL ALSO BE CLOSED. YOU MAY CALL 689-9101 FOR A RECORDED MESSAGE, OR CHECK THE FAITH FORMATION WEBPAGE.

ABSENTEEISM

Of course, it is our fervent hope that students are always present (and on time for) their assigned classes. However, if they are ill, please call the faith formation office at 689-9101 to have students excused or E-mail:

Pam@nativitycatholicchurch.org. This will also help to keep our attendance records current for perfect attendance awards!

Please refer to the Parent/student handbook as well as the Parish Bulletin and website for special events, Holy Days of Obligation, and additional updates.

Print this page and return to the Faith Formation Office

I acknowledge my responsibility to read the Nativity Catholic Church Faith Formation Handbook and Calendar for the program year 2020-2021. This information is located on the Faith Formation page of the Nativity web-site: www.nativitycatholicchurch.org I will familiarize myself with the policies, procedures and dates contained in the handbook. The policies and dates are subject to change upon written notification by the Directors of Faith Formation.

PARENT SIGNATURE _____

PRINT PARENT NAME _____

DATE _____ WED or SUN or HOMESTUDY

My child(ren) and I will take part in the Parent and Student Safe Environment Training as scheduled.

PARENT SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

STUDENT NAME(S)

I acknowledge my responsibility to read and understand, and accept both the Policy for the Protection of Children and the Harassment Policy in Non-employment Situations regarding the schools, early childhood centers, parish youth ministry programs, parish religious education programs, Boy Scouts and Our Lady of Good Counsel Camp of the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

(Signature)Parent/Guardian)

(Signature)Parent/Guardian)

Date

(Print)Parent/Guardian

(Print)Parent/Guardian

WWW.NATIVITYCATHOLICCHURCH.ORG

→ Education and Resources

→ Religious Education Sun and Wed

→ 2020-2021 Parent/Student Handbook

Nativity Catholic Church-Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg

**PARENTAL/GUARDIAN COVID-19
CONSENT FORM AND LIABILITY WAIVER**

Parent/Guardian's name: _____

Home address: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Parish ID/Envelope # _____

Participant's names:

_____ Birth Date: _____

_____ Birth Date: _____

_____ Birth Date: _____

_____ Birth Date: _____



COVID-19 has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. In order to resume regular Faith Formation and Youth Ministry operations, the Diocese of St. Petersburg and Nativity Catholic Church have put in place reasonable preventative measures and standards of behavior to reduce the spread of COVID-19 at parish activities. Even with implementation of safety protocols, the Parish cannot guarantee that you or your child(ren) will not become infected with COVID-19; attending the Parish activity could increase your risk and/or your child(ren)'s risk of contracting COVID-19.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK: Nativity Catholic Church cannot prevent you or your child/children from becoming exposed to, contracting, or spreading COVID-19 while attending parish programs and related activities. It is not possible to prevent against the presence of the disease. Therefore, if you choose for your children to attend Nativity Parish programs, your child and/or other family members may be exposed to and/or at increased risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19. I/we have read and understood the above warning concerning COVID-19. I/we hereby choose to accept the risk of contracting COVID-19 for myself/ourselves, my/our child/children, and/or other family members in order for my/our child/children, to attend parish programs and related activities. By signing this agreement, I/we acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and that my/our child(ren) and I/we may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by attending and/or being present at parish programs, and/or by participating in parish activities, and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death. Considering the foregoing, however, I, _____, grant permission for my child/children to participate in this parish activity, notwithstanding the risks associated with the COVID-19 virus and group activities. I confirm that there are no necessary changes to the Medical Information Consent form for my child that I previously submitted. If there are any necessary changes, I will complete another Medical Information Consent form. I also commit to my child NOT attending if ill or a fever is present.

WAIVER OF LAWSUIT/LIABILITY: I hereby forever release and waive my right to bring suit against the Diocese of St. Petersburg/Nativity Catholic Church and its owners, officers, directors, managers, officials, trustees, agents, employees, authorized volunteers, or other representatives in connection with exposure, infection, and/or spread of COVID-19 related to the Program. I understand that this waiver means I give up my right to bring any claims including for personal injuries, death, disease or property losses, or any other loss, including but not limited to claims of negligence and give up any claim I may have to seek damages, whether known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen.

CHOICE OF LAW: I understand and agree that the law of the State of Florida will apply to this contract. I HAVE CAREFULLY READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ALL PROVISIONS OF THIS RELEASE, AND FREELY AND KNOWINGLY ASSUME THE RISK AND WAIVE MY RIGHTS CONCERNING LIABILITY AS DESCRIBED ABOVE.

I am the parent or legal guardian of the minor named above. I have the legal right to consent to and, by signing below, I hereby do consent to the terms and conditions of this Release.

(Parent/Guardian Name-Printed) (Parent/Guardian Signature) (Date)